

In the Claims:

1           1. (Amended) A method of making microparticles of a sustained  
2 release ionic conjugate containing a free carboxyl group-containing  
3 biodegradable polymer and a free amino group-containing drug which are  
4 ionically bonded to each other, the method comprising:  
5           obtaining a first solution in which said conjugate is dissolved, wherein said  
6 solution comprises at least one part acetone, acetonitrile, ethyl acetate,  
7 tetrahydrofuran, [or] glyme or any combination thereof;  
8           [mixing] adding said first solution [with] as small droplets to a first liquid to  
9 form a first dispersion, wherein said first liquid is miscible with said first  
10 solution, and said conjugate is not soluble in said first liquid and  
11 precipitates out of said first dispersion; and  
12 isolating said conjugate from said first dispersion.

Claim 3, line 1, delete "2" and insert --1--.

1           21. (Amended) A method according to claim 20, [wherein]  
2           comprising the additional steps of mixing said isolated conjugate [is mixed]  
3           with an aqueous mannitol solution [prior to] and vacuum drying said  
4           mannitol solution.

Please cancel claim 2 without waiver or prejudice.